

NEWTON YOUTH COMMISSION Meeting

November 12, 2014 MINUTES

Location: Senior Center

Present: Jessica Tharaud, Anton Malin, Eliza Beth, Eli Lerner, Benji Cole, John Kusiak, Mira Li, Alexa Lyons, Hannah Lass
Staff: Jennifer O'Higgins, Jenna Olson
Advisory Board
Adults: Matt Green, Chris Hardiman, Joe DeVito, Kirsten Tuohy, Susan Swick, Heather Byrns, Stephanie Lapham, Ruth Goldman
Guests: Tom Pomeroy

The meeting was opened at 6:39 PM by Chairperson, Eli Lerner.

Business:

- Motion to pass minutes were revised:
 - Stephanie moved to advisory board member not guest
 - Kirsten Tuohy was not there
- Jenny O'Higgins mentioned budget update
 - Revolving account untouched
 - We have successfully spent no money
- Continuation of last month's conversation on Commission Ordinance changes
 - Questions/problems from last week
 - Language should be changed to gender neutral ☐
 - Age qualification must be amended ☐
 - Chairperson: We have been using a revolving chair
 - How would that person be elected/appointed in the future
 - Stephanie mentioned that though it is nice that we use a revolving system, we should establish a chair for a full year to create consistency
 - One possible solution is a 1 term Junior chair from January to December so that the new chair can become
 - Also consider a Vice Chair
 - A sophomore or a junior o Motion to go forward with ordinance changes to Sec. 12-60. To include alternates, an elected chair and vice-chair, terms of 1 year with up to 4 consecutive terms, residents or attending school in Newton
 - VOTE TAKES PLACE AND CARRIES UNANIMOUSLY
- Reading beyond the first paragraph:
 - Discussion of the group being a leader of youth groups around the city that would hear out potential youth services for the city. However, most of the purposes already outlined in the ordinances are accurate.
 - Discussion of creating a general document not explicitly in the ordinance that assists future commissioners with mission and goals
- Can the ordinance be changed in its writing so that we don't need to use a dictionary to understand it? Less intimidating in general?
 - Jenny will ask the city clerk who will help re-write the ordinance to our edits and more accessibly

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- At 7:00 a motion was offered to accept the ordinance as written from sec 12-61 through section 12-62: passed UNANIMOUSLY
- Quorum has to be a majority, Total number of commissioners must be odd
 - YOUTH Advisory board members should be “alternates” taking the place of commissioners when they are absent.
 - Alternate schedule should be a rotational system
 - Total number of commissioners should remain at 7
 - 7:07 motion put forth to establish youth Advisory board members as alternates to commissioners when the commissioners are absent Sec. 12-63 ☐

MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY!

- Wording and placement in the actual ordinance will be improved and worked on with the city clerk's office
 - Section 12-64 Gifts and grants is clarified by Jenny to the board and no changes are proposed
 - Board decides to accept grants in the future, leave this section as is ☐ Final section 12-65: Advisory board to youth commission
 - Paragraph A o Advisory board is said to be comprised of 20 members
 - 5 of whom are secondary school age
 - 5 of whom are under 35 years of age
 - Adult Advisory board members this year include members from all over newton youth agencies (ie. Ymca, boys and girls club...)
 - The restrictions as outlined above allow for 10 high school students since high schoolers too are under 35 years of age
 - Proposal to include college students: To attract colleges (Lassell) we should contact colleges in the area interested in social work/ education
 - By the way the language is written it sounds like the advisory board and the Youth commission act and meet independently, this limits the potential meeting and practices of the Youth commission in total
 - So wording should change to greater reflect what currently takes place ☐ Or even better: remove 2 key sentences of issue and DON'T REPLACE
- Motion put forward to remove the last 2 sentences of paragraph in Sec. 12-65 paragraph A and... it PASSES UNANIMOUSLY YAYAYAYAYAY
 - Paragraph B: o Advisory Board adults should perhaps be kept as 3 year terms (ambiguous term limit), while student Advisory Board members should serve for 1 year and ask to be reappointed
 - Advisory Board should NOT have chair (edit to Ordinance)
 - Motion put forward for Removal of Advisory board chair
 - Have adult members serve for 3 yr. terms
 - Youth advisory members serve for 1 yr. terms

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- Respectfully submitted by Benjamin Cole, “King of all that is good and awesome” and Advisory Board Member